Average tax bill may go up \$112 possible 15 mill education hike

The average tax bill in Halton Hills could rise as much as \$112 this year and Milton ratepayers may be forced to fork over \$75 more to pay for education in Halton.

Chairman of the Halton Board of Education finance committee Trustee Bill Lawson warned Thursday if all programs and services are maintained this year the mill rate could go up 36 to 38 per cent of 14 and 15 mills.

The cost of each mill is based on an average assessment in Halton Hills of \$7,500. and \$5,000 in Milton.

Lawson said the cost of educating each student in Halton will probably go up approximately 17 or 18 per cent this year due to inflation, if all existing programs are maintained.

He said 6.5 mills of the possible 14 or 15 mill increase will be due to a three per cent reduction of provincial grant support to Halton. Lawson added the reduction in

provincial grants alone will cause a 17 per cent mill rate increase.

"The members of the board consider that such an increase (14 or 15 mills) would be unacceptable to the ratepayers of Halton and steps will have to be taken to contain the increase within a responsible amount," Lawson declared.

The Milton trustee said the finance committee will "carefully scrutinize every aspect" of the Halton education operation so the mill rate increase can be kept as low as possible.

"It would be the hope and the intention of the committee to minimize, as much as possible, the impact of the constraints on the pupils," Lawson said.

He warned every facet of the board's operations will face constraints of some degree this year.

Reviewing the board's financial operations in the past Lawson noted education in Halton has always been provided within provincial ceilings.

The chairman of finance committee said the board has been providing a "good, sound education system" since it was formed in 1969 and despite cost per pupil increases of 65 per cent over the last seven years it has been able to reduce the overall mill rate nine per cent. Lawson admitted one of the reasons education mill rates have been reduced despite inflation is the support payments by Queen's Park have risen from 43 per cent to 60 per cent.

In a letter to Premier William Davis, Education Minister Thomas Wells, members of cabinet and MPPs, the board outlined the possibility of 36 to 38 per cent mill rates in Halton and wondered if they will face the same sort of provincial support reduction in 1977 or if the grants from Queen's Park will be even further reduced next year.

In its letter to the province the board noted it has always operated within ceiling limits and when it was formed in 1969 it was encouraged by Queen's Park to develop new programs with the promise of gradually increased grants.

Board chairman Judy Alexander warned in the letter an increase of 36 or 38 per cent in taxes "would be unacceptable to the ratepayers in the region."

"Would it not have been more prudent on the part of the government, if such a change is necessary, that the change could have been phased over a period of time and thus given the board more lead time to adjust the situation and thus lessen the impact on the pupils?" Mrs. Alexander asked the province, referring to the cut back in grants.



ST. JOHN AMBULANCE first aid instructor Blair Beemer, (right) demonstrates to his night school class how to apply a bandage to a wound without the proper materials. Bill Lee gets a first hand view of the method as "victim". The course is at the high school on Monday even-

Une Allon Jule Hulba

One Hundred and First Year - No. 31

ACTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1976

Thirty-Eight Pages - Fifteen Cents

TRAFFIC WAS HALTED IN both directions following a car-truck collision on Highway 7 just west of Crewson's Corners Thursday. Francis Foley of Queen Street remains in hospital in satisfactory condition. Mr. Foley was a passenger in the car. Gasoline from the truck's fuel tank had to be washed from the road by the Acton Fire Department. Damage to the two vehicles is estimated at \$1,900.

Car-truck collision

Resident kept in hospital

Francis Foley, 44, of Queen ear, received cuts and bruises Street East remains in hos- and was released after treatpital in satisfactory condition with a broken right leg Eric Lavers, 19, of Toronto following a car-truck collision received a back injury. just west of Crewson's Corners on Highway 7 Thursday at Guelph General Hospital by

Mr. Foley's 16-year old son Derrick, who was driving the

ment. A truck passenger, All three were taken to

Arruda, 18, of Brampton es-

caped injury. The front-end and motor of the car were eastbound traffic when it damaged and the truck's gas, veered into the westbound tank ruptured, spewing fuel land and the two vehicles onto the highway.

Hose road

Acton firefighters were called to hose down the road. The truck driver, Jacinto Traffic in both directions was

Charges are pending.

collided, police say.

Total damage to both vehicles is estimated at \$1,900.

Separate School seeks shared accommodation

Discussions will be held to discuss the possibility of Halton Separate School Board sharing pupil accommodation in Acton for use as a separate schoo, here.

Dr. Leno Braida, chairman of the Halton Separate School board, wrote Halton school board concerning his board's consideration of a separate school in Acton.

Director of education Em Lavender read parts of his letter at the board meeting last Thursday. It was agreed

that chairman Judy Alexander and vice-chairman Bill Herd will meet with Dr. Braida for exploratory dis-

Dr Braida told the county

Letter

"The Property and Planning Committee of the Halton Separate School Board has been considering the establishment of the Board's first separate school in the Town of Acton. The separate school board is aware, however, that

the Ministry of Education's current program of restraint in the area of capital expenditure makes an immediate

building program impossible. "To this end, a motion was passed at the December regular meeting of the Board that a Lialson Committee consisting of the chairman of the Board, members of the Property and Planning Committee and Administration be established, and that the Llaison Committee initiate exploratory discussions

with the Board of Education re the possibility of 'sharing' pupil accommodation for an interim period in the town of

"The concept of 'sharing' accommodation has been a sensitive and difficult issue in certain areas of the province but because of the good relationship that exists between our boards, I feel that this matter can be discussed in an open and amicable manner.'

Dr. L. Braida, Chairman

Seek business levy for downtown parking rate increase on commercial just can't afford to lose any 32 parking spots in the past and business assessment to

Paul Nielsen and Louis Charlebols, representing Acton Chamber of Commerce, told Halton Hills works committee Monday they will ask downtown businessmen to allow a special mill rate levy to help finance the development of downtown parking.

Mr. Nielsen told the committee at a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting the consensus of opinion among Acton businessmen was "we

more parking spots. Customers and merchants are all saying we don't have enough parking now."

He noted the businessmen can understand why they have lost parking spots recently on Willow Street, John Street and St. Alban's Drive but "as Acton grows the parking problem will become worse. We are at the erunch now." Mr. Nielsen noted the merchants have lost

Need 50

Mr. Nielsen explained that regardless of what the town does in the way of reconstruction of Mill Street a minimum of 50 additional parking spots is needed in downtown Acton.

He said he and Mr. Charlebois will be going to the downtown businessmen and asking them to agree to a mill

buy property downtown for off street parking," he explained. Mr. Nielsen said if a majority consensus of opinion can be reached with the

"cover the cost of acquiring

properties for off street

"We hope a greater number of merchants agree to this

and then we will come back to

the town and ask for a mill

rate increase of about three

mills. This would raise about

\$22,500 a year and we intend

to use this to back up a loan to

downtown businessmen then they will ask the town to pass a by-law allowing the special taxation. He predicted merchants

will be receptive to the idea and thought he could have an answer back to the town in a Mr. Nielsen explained the

initial approach to the parking problem is being made through the Chamber of Commerce but the accumu-

lation of funds and administration of the off street parking plan will be in the hands of the Halton Hills Parking Authority.

Two hours He said the merchants support the idea of a two hour parking limit in downtown

Mr. Nielsen admitted this plan won't solve all the problems "but off street parking would make the situation more palatable."

He showed committee members aerial photos of downtown Acton indicating the building which could be demolished for parking spaces along with a yard behind a building which could be acquired for more parking

Mr. Nielsen noted merchants have been trying for 15 years to duplicate in Acton the development of off street parking which took place in Georgetown but have failed because people want to hang

onto their land. He said he (Continued on page 5)

Tenants flee hotel during 1:30 a.m. blaze

Tenants of the Dominion Hotel had to be evacuated during an early morning

Fire of unknown origin broke out at 1.30 a.m. in a locked third-floor storage room, according to Acton fire chief Mick Holmes. Extensive damage resulted. Flames spread into the hall

and one bedroom as firelighters fought to keep the fire under control, the chief said. The second and third storeys received extensive smoke damage as it billowed throughout the corridors and rooms. The entire structure received water damage. Mr. Holmes said water got into the walls and poured down the rear of the hotel, into the kitchen and other rooms.

Rescue tenants fighters and police led or carried tenants out of the burning building. Some spent the 27 with three counts of at-remainder of the night with tempted murder. Victims friends or relatives, while were his wife Hilda, 50, and a others waited three or four hours before being able to at the Baron farm just east of return to their rooms, the fire chief said. The building's fire alarm system had awakened most of the people.

The hotel was closed all day Baron had a permit. and night Saturday under the orders of the fire chief. He explained he had to do this because of the water damage and to give him a chance to

safety hazards. premises closed for the rest of alarm sounding, in spite of were in constant use due to the late hour. Almost every

Baron hearing

This Friday Horst Baron will appear in provincial court in Milton for his preliminary hearing on three charges of attempted murder. He appeared in court last Friday but the case was adjourned until this Friday.

The Crown Attorney Jim Treleaven intends to prosecute the case himself. The Acton volunteer fire- trial is expected to begin about the end of March. Baron was charged October

man and his son who boarded Acton, Gus Mayer, 49, and Wayne, nine. All three were shot in the chest with a .38 calibre revolver, for which All three have since

recovered. Baron has been in custody in the provincial jail at Milton or the past three months.

check the ceilings as possible man responded to the call, Mr. Holmes said, with a few Two fire trucks were on the staying at the fire hall to refill blaze Saturday, and the scene within minutes of the the Scott air packs which the smoke.

> The snow-covered fire bydrant was not used. Instead, the water in the fire trucks' holding-tanks put out the blaze. Mr. Holmes could not give a

damage estimate, although he did say the damage was extensive throughout the entire building. A clean-up crew started

work on Sunday morning in order to bring the building back to normal. Meanwhile, business was usual by the beginning of the week.

Column begins

Regional councillor Pat McKenzie today joins the ranks of Members of Parliament in providing for his constituents a column of information and comment. Sitting on both region and area councils, Mr. McKenzie is aware of what is going on at both levels of government.

He'll be writing his column at intervals and hopes to make regional living a little easier to understand for the people of this district.



Treats northern residents

Guelph hospital wants contribution from Halton

A special report is being prepared on the use of Guelph hospitals by Halton residents, following receipt of a letter to regional chairman Allan N. W. Jary asking the region per year." to consider contributing to the financing of Guelph General

Hospital. In his letter Mayor Jary points out that 10.9 per cent of the total palient days at Guelph General Hospital and 1.0 per cent of the total patient days at St. Joseph's Hospital are used by Halton resi-

He said the usage at the General is significant "considering that our servicing of the General Hospital debt Masson from Guelph mayor costs approximately \$125,000

> Asks appointment "Extensive usage by the residents of the Region and former County of Halton has been a continuing pattern over the years. Some years ago we made provision by a change in the special Act for the Hospital, for the County of Halton to be represented on

the Hospital Board. However, the County did not appoint a representative. There is still provision for such representation to our Board," Mayor Jary wrote.

He asked that the region consider a contribution to the hospital debt charges and an appointment to the board. When the matter came before Halton's administration committee it was filed with-

out any serious consideration or discussion. But when the matter came before Council Wednesday,

Acton area representative Pat McKenzie said the letter should be referred back to the Administration Committee with a staff report analysing the effect the decision would have on the 10,000 residents who use that hospital.

Lose privileges? McKenzie said it had been intimated that Acton doctors could lose the privileges to admit patients and use facilities at the hospital. He said that was one area where be wanted clarified.

Administration committee day arranged a meeting of committee member Mac meeting will be held soon.

door for similar requests (Dr. Raichura left at the first from Hamilton, Toronto, of the year and is now in Mississauga and all munici- Bramalea.) All regularly palities along Halton's bor- have their patients admitted ders which would admit there. Halton people.

Councillor McKenzle Mon-

chairman David Coons and the town's doctors. Another Anderson said the request All Acton doctors are on couldn't be considered staff at both Guelph General because the facility was not in and St. Joseph's-Dr. Moore, Dr. van der Bent, Dr. McWill-They argued that consent to lam, Dr. Pun, Dr. Hutchison, such a request would open the Dr. Wilson and Dr. Vukovich.

> Not geographic Guelph General Hospital Administrator Mr. Whitworth

told this newspaper the hospital could not reject admissions from patients on a geographic basis. He said the hospital board does have the power to grant rights and privileges to doctors, but he said they could not be withdrawn on a geographic basis.

Councillor Jim Watson of Milton noted that most people north of 20 Sideroad and west of the, Third Line in Esquesing would use the Guelph facilities.

SIX FOOT one inch tall David Swetman stands beside a huge column of ice which, until the recent mild spell, stood between his store and the Bank of Montreal on Mill Street. The ice formed from a constant trickle of water escaping from between the store's roof and a thick crust of ice.